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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 001053

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [ASEC](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: JUNE 30--KINSHASA CALM BUT JUMPY

REF: KINSHASA 1042

Classified By: Poloff Meghan Moore for Reasons 1.4 B and D

1. (C) SUMMARY. Kinshasa is calm but jumpy in the run-up to June 30. As expected, the Congolese military and police have increased visible patrols throughout Kinshasa over the past few days, and salary payments for police and military in Kinshasa have started. There were no reported demonstrations, serious security incidents, or work disruptions in Kinshasa June 27 or 28. Post will continue to monitor closely the developing situation, especially the status of salary payments, police and military morale, and any concrete UDPS plans for demonstrations. END SUMMARY.

#### Military Show of Force

2. (C) The Congolese military started a three-day 'show of force' on June 26 involving military helicopters, marching soldiers, and trucks transporting soldiers through most of Kinshasa. The Minister of Defense told polcouns June 25 that the 'show of force' was designed to scare potential troublemakers and reassure Congolese civilians that the police and military would protect them if things went poorly on June 30. By continuing the 'show of force' until the night of June 28, when all soldiers will be ordered to their barracks, government forces hope to demonstrate they are prepared to stop civil unrest, but will not react unless provoked.

3. (C) RSO reported that up to 5,000 lightly armed soldiers wearing a mix of regular military and presidential guard uniforms were peacefully marching from near the airport towards central Kinshasa the morning of June 28. RSO sources said the soldiers were accompanied by marching bands, and were heading towards Camp Kokolo, where they expected General Kisempia (FARDC Chief of Staff) to deliver a speech later this afternoon. DATT Office also reported that several thousand soldiers were moving in Kinshasa on June 28 as part of an 'exercise.' As of 1100 am local, there were no reports of any security incidents or clashes with civilians.

4. (C) The Minister of Interior told polcouns the morning of June 28 that he planned to attend the graduation of 150 Angolan-trained and -equipped special counter terrorism soldiers with Angola's Minister of Interior later in the day. The group, which has been trained to conduct city operations in close quarters is scheduled to move to a camp near the airport after graduation, where it will be under the command of the Minister of Interior. National Security Advisor Samba Kaputo told polcouns June 27 that this group could be used to identify leaders of problematic groups and arrest them.

#### Increased Police Patrols

5. (C) RSO reported that a few thousand police with motorcycles, trucks and several tanks and armored vehicles conducted exercises the night of June 27. The police deployed to hot spots throughout the city, and then during the early morning of June 27 a large group met in the UDPS stronghold of Limite and disbanded. (Note: The UDPS is an opposition party that has called for the end of the transition and for people to 'peacefully' take to the streets on June 30. The UDPS' large-scale demonstrations have often led to violence. End note.) There were no reports of police misconduct, and there was no unusual police presence reported in areas near the Embassy.

#### Salary Payments

6. (C) Salary payments for police and military in Kinshasa started late June 26. National Security Advisor Samba Kaputo told polcouns June 27 that all police had been paid their regular salaries (about \$12 for the rank-and-file), and food would be distributed June 28. DATT Office reported June 27 that a Kinshasa-based police lieutenant had received his entire June salary of about \$17, as well as a small food packet, and other police had received salaries and rice, and some had received a chicken. Minister of Interior told polcouns June 26 that Rapid Intervention Police (PIR) throughout the country had been paid their June salaries last week. The Minister added on June 27 that police officers working round-the-clock this week will also receive about an

extra \$2.50 per day.

17. (C) Minister of Defense told polcouns June 25 that soldiers would be paid prior to June 30, and DATT Office reported on June 28 that some soldiers at the general headquarters received salaries June 27 based on rank, including authorized raises, but had not yet received expected food rations. Kaputo told polcouns June 27 that military food distribution would take place on June 29, in part to make sure that soldiers would return to their barracks. As of June 28, salary payments to be delivered by the Air Force for soldiers outside Kinshasa had not yet started.

Kinshasa Calm, But Jumpy

18. (C) RSO said that reports of sustained gunfire from Camp Tshatshi during the afternoon of June 27 was actually noise

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from blasting at a rock quarry in Brazzaville. (Note: Noise from Camp Tshatshi and across the Congo River in DRC sounds like it comes from the same direction due to echoing caused by the river and hills on both sides of its banks. End note.) There was an accidental discharge during a training exercise at the Camp later in the day, which resulted in quickly contained, limited return fire. No one was hurt in the exchange.

Comment

19. (C) As of mid-day on June 28, Kinshasa was calm with arrangements for June 30 proceeding as expected. Police and military patrols have increased over the past few days, salaries are being paid, and the government's security plan seems to be working. Post will continue to monitor closely the developing situation, especially salary payments, police and military morale, and any concrete UDPS plans for demonstrations. End comment.  
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